

AMENDMENTS TO LB 489

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following
2 new sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and
4 may be cited as the Area Health Education Centers Act.

5 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Area Health Education Centers
6 Act, area health education center means a private, nonprofit
7 organization established under federal law that has a cooperative
8 agreement with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and
9 performs the duties provided in section 3 of this act.

10 Sec. 3. An area health education center shall:

11 (1) Develop and implement strategies to recruit into
12 careers in health professions: Individuals from underserved urban
13 communities; individuals who grew up in, resided a substantial
14 portion of their life in, or attended high school in federally
15 designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities; and individuals
16 from underrepresented or rural populations;

17 (2) Develop and implement strategies to foster and
18 provide community-based training and education to individuals
19 seeking careers in health professions within underserved areas
20 and populations;

21 (3) Develop and implement strategies to retain health
22 care professionals providing health care services to underserved
23 areas and populations;

1 (4) Prepare individuals to provide health care services
2 more effectively to underserved areas and populations through field
3 placements or preceptorships in conjunction with community-based
4 organizations, accredited primary care residency training programs,
5 community health centers, Indian health centers, public health
6 departments, or other appropriate facilities and programs;

7 (5) Conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training
8 of health profession students, including, but not limited to,
9 students studying to become physicians, physician assistants, nurse
10 practitioners, nurse midwives, dentists, or other health care
11 professionals or students in behavioral health, public health, and
12 other health care profession educational programs;

13 (6) Develop, deliver, or facilitate continuing
14 education and information dissemination programs for health care
15 professionals, with an emphasis on individuals providing health
16 care services to underserved areas and populations;

17 (7) Collaborate in the development of well-managed health
18 care delivery systems in underserved areas and among underserved
19 populations; and

20 (8) Conduct an annual evaluation of its performance in
21 carrying out the duties provided in this section and provide
22 data to the Governor and the Legislature that includes, but is
23 not limited to: (a) The number of participants in any of the
24 programs developed, implemented, or facilitated by area health
25 education centers who enter into health-related professions and
26 which professions they enter; (b) the number of participants in
27 any of the programs developed, implemented, or facilitated by

1 area health education centers who remain in Nebraska and provide
2 health care services to underserved areas and populations; and
3 (c) the number and type of continuing education programs offered,
4 the number and type of participants in such programs by health
5 profession category, and the number of continuing education hours
6 awarded.

7 Sec. 4. (1) The University of Nebraska Medical Center
8 shall enter into cooperative agreements with area health education
9 centers. Prior to entering into such agreements, the University of
10 Nebraska Medical Center shall ensure that an area health education
11 center:

12 (a) Is a private, nonprofit organization whose structure,
13 governance, and operation are independent from the University of
14 Nebraska Medical Center;

15 (b) Designates a geographic area, a medically underserved
16 urban community, or a federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan
17 community to be served by the area health education center
18 that does not duplicate, in whole or in part, the community
19 or population served by any other area health education center;

20 (c) Fosters networking and collaboration among
21 communities and community-based health care providers;

22 (d) Serves urban communities and federally designated
23 rural or nonmetropolitan communities with a demonstrated need for
24 health care professionals;

25 (e) Addresses the health care workforce needs of the
26 communities served; and

27 (f) Conducts an annual evaluation of its performance in

1 carrying out the duties provided in section 3 of this act and
2 reports the results of such evaluation to the Governor and the
3 Legislature.

4 (2) To assist area health education centers in carrying
5 out the duties provided in section 3 of this act, the University of
6 Nebraska Medical Center shall:

7 (a) Serve as a resource to area health education centers;

8 (b) Encourage collaboration between pertinent programs
9 administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and area
10 health education centers;

11 (c) Take into consideration the capabilities of the
12 existing area health education centers prior to establishing
13 separate or parallel programs; and

14 (d) Assist area health education centers in conducting an
15 annual evaluation of its performance in carrying out the duties as
16 provided in section 3 of this act.

17 Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to initially
18 appropriate funding for area health education centers for five
19 years. No later than June 30, 2014, the Health and Human
20 Services Committee of the Legislature, in consultation with the
21 Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, shall provide for an
22 evaluation of the effectiveness of area health education centers
23 in carrying out the duties provided under section 3 of this act
24 and make recommendation regarding the continued funding of such
25 centers.

26 Sec. 6. The Area Health Education Centers Act terminates
27 on June 30, 2014.